

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 5-10, 16-20, and 25-29, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 12, and 21 as follows (a complete listing of all the claims appears below:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A search method of searching for output information strongly related to input information from a plurality of candidate bodies of information, said method comprising:

- a keyword list generating step, of extracting one or more keywords typically representing information corresponding to the input information and each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information, extracting a weight value that is set in association with the input information and each of the plurality of bodies of candidate information, and generating a keyword list;
- an arithmetic step, of executing a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each keyword of the input information and the weight value of each keyword of each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information;
- a selection step, of selecting output information from the plurality of candidate bodies of information based on arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all keywords of each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information in said arithmetic step; and

an output step, of determining a layout of the output information to be printed on a paper sheet based on the arithmetic results, and of outputting the input information attached together with the output information placed on the paper sheet at the determined layout,

wherein the weight value is a numerical value with "-" or "+" given to each keyword in consideration of a respective universally accepted idea on the contents of each of the keywords, wherein the "-" and the "+" mean that the keyword has negative and positive contents, respectively, with respect to its corresponding one of the universally accepted ideas.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined arithmetic operation is multiplication of the weight values, and information corresponding to a large sum value of the arithmetic results is selected as the output information.

Claim 3 (previously amended): The method according to claim 2, wherein the weight value includes a sign determined in advance for each keyword, and when a result of the predetermined arithmetic operation for weight values of a set of keywords has a relatively large positive value, it is determined that a relationship is strong.

Claim 4 (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

an input step, of inputting the input information from a predetermined terminal;
a first storage step, of storing contents of the plurality of candidate bodies of

information in an information provider server; and

a second storage step, of storing the keywords of each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information and the weight values of the keywords in a management server.

Claims 5-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): An apparatus for searching for output information related to input information from a plurality of candidate bodies of information, said apparatus comprising:

a keyword list generating unit adapted to extract one or more keywords typically representing information corresponding to the input information and each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information, extract a weight value that is set in association with the input information and each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information, and generate a keyword list;

a calculator, adapted to execute a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each keyword of the input information and the weight value of each keyword of each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information;

a selector, adapted to select output information from the plurality of candidate bodies of information based on arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all keywords of each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information using said calculator; and

an output unit, adapted to determine a layout of the output information to be printed on a paper sheet based on the arithmetic results, and adapted to output the input information together with the output information attached to the input information placed on the paper sheet at the determined layout,

wherein the weight value is a numerical value with "-" or "+" given to each keyword in consideration of a respective universally accepted idea on the contents of each of the keywords, wherein the "-" and the "+" mean that the keyword has negative and positive contents, respectively, with respect to a corresponding one of the universally accepted ideas.

Claim 13 (previously added): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the predetermined arithmetic operation is multiplication of the weight values, and information corresponding to a large sum value of the arithmetic results is selected as the output information.

Claim 14 (previously added): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the weight value includes a sign determined in advance for each keyword, and when a result of the predetermined arithmetic operation for weight values of a set of keywords has a relatively large positive value, it is determined that a relationship is strong.

Claim 15 (previously amended): The apparatus according to claim 12, further

comprising:

an input unit, adapted to input the input information from a predetermined terminal;
a first storage unit, adapted to store contents of the plurality of candidate bodies of information in an information provider server; and
a second storage unit, adapted to store the keywords of each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information and the weight values of the keywords in a management server.

Claims 16-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer program product embodying a program for implementing a search method of searching for output information related to input information from a plurality of candidate bodies of information, the program comprising:

program code for a keyword list generating step, of extracting one or more keywords typically representing information corresponding to the input information and each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information, extracting a weight value that is set in association with the input information and each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information, and generating a keyword list;

program code for an arithmetic step, of executing a predetermined arithmetic operation for the weight value of each keyword of the input information and the weight value of each keyword of each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information;

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program code for a selection step, of selecting output information from the plurality of candidate bodies of information based on a sum value of arithmetic results obtained by performing the predetermined arithmetic operation for substantially all keywords of each of the plurality of candidate bodies of information in the arithmetic step; and

program code for an output step, of determining a layout of the output information to be printed on a paper sheet based on the arithmetic results, and of outputting the input information together with the output information attached to the input information placed on the paper sheet at the determined layout,

wherein the weight value is a numerical value with "-" or "+" given to each keyword in consideration of a respective universally accepted idea on the contents of each of the keywords, wherein the "-" and the "+" mean that the keyword has negative and positive contents, respectively, with respect to a corresponding one of the universally accepted ideas.

Claim 22 (previously added): The computer program product according to claim 21, wherein

the predetermined arithmetic operation is multiplication of the weight values,
and

information corresponding to a large sum value of the arithmetic results is selected as the output information.

Claim 23 (previously added): The computer program product according to

claim 22, wherein

the weight value includes a sign determined in advance for each keyword, and
when a result of the predetermined arithmetic operation for weight values of a
set of keywords has a relatively large positive value, it is determined that a relationship is strong.

Claim 24 (previously amended): The computer program product according to
claim 21, wherein the program further comprises:

program code for an input step, of inputting the input information from a
predetermined terminal;

program code for a first storage step, of storing contents of the plurality of
candidate bodies of information in an information provider server; and

program code for a second storage step, of storing the keywords of each of the
plurality of candidate bodies of information and the weight values of the keywords in a
management server.

Claims 25-38 (canceled)